



ROBERT M. BELL
CHIEF JUDGE
COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND
ROBERT C. MURPHY COURTS OF APPEAL BUILDING
361 ROWE BOULEVARD
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1699

MEMORANDUM

TO: County Administrative Judges
District Administrative Judges

FROM: Robert M. Bell *RMB*

DATE: April 8, 2008

RE: Problem-Solving Court Application & Rules

Courts have increasingly become the institution of choice by the public and other branches of state government to address complex, problematic societal issues including drug related crime, family dysfunction, and repeated nuisance. Throughout the United States, courts are increasingly focused on problem solving and alternative remedies not effectively accommodated by the current legal and adjudicatory process. Problem-solving courts are providing sustained and meaningful resolutions for many difficult cases that enter our courtrooms.

The Judicial Conference Committee on Problem-Solving Courts has developed a mandatory application procedure to be followed prior to planning and operating any new problem-solving court program. This process will allow the Judiciary to better anticipate the resources needed for these court-lead programs as well as allowing for more oversight of initial set-up needs.

Please review the enclosed Maryland Problem-Solving Court Application Rules and Application for Proposed Problem-Solving Court Program. Questions should be directed to Gray Barton, Executive Director for the Office of Problem-Solving Courts at (410) 260-3617 or gray.barton@mdcourts.gov.

cc: Honorable Jamey Hueston
Honorable Kathleen Cox
Honorable Charlotte Cooksey
Frank Broccolina
Gray Barton